

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus for cleaning an ophthalmic device comprising at least one ophthalmic device carrier, a conveying device for conveying said ophthalmic device carrier and a cleaning station to receive said ophthalmic device carrier, wherein said cleaning station comprises at least one movable cleaning assembly, an inlet for injecting compressed gas onto the ophthalmic device and an outlet for providing an outflow from said enclosed area to remove debris.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said ophthalmic devices are contact lens molds.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said gas is air.
4. An apparatus according to claim 3 wherein said air is deionized.
5. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said gas is nitrogen.
6. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the outflow is created by a vacuum source.
7. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said cleaning assembly forms an enclosed or substantially enclosed area

around said ophthalmic device to be cleaned.

8. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said cleaning station, which receives said front curve lens mold carrier, comprises:
  - a) four legs, spaced apart with each having an upper and lower portion;
  - b) two parallel cross support members, each attached to the upper portion of two of said legs;
  - c) a mounting plate having a top surface and a bottom surface movably engaging said cross support members;
  - d) at least one front curve lens mold cleaning assembly, said front curve lens mold cleaning assembly being adapted to inject compressed gas onto the front curve lens molds to dislodge any debris located on the front curve lens molds and to provide a vacuum for removing any debris present; and
  - e) at least one means for providing vertical movement attached the bottom surface of said mounting plate and said front curve lens mold cleaning assembly.
9. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein said means for providing vertical movement of said front curve lens mold cleaning assembly is a pneumatic cylinder.
10. An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein said cleaning

assembly further comprises a proximity sensor.

11. An apparatus for cleaning front curve contact lens molds comprising at least one front curve lens mold carrier, a conveying device for conveying said front curve lens mold carrier and a cleaning station to receive said front curve lens mold carrier, wherein said cleaning station comprises at least one movable cleaning assembly which forms an enclosed or substantially enclosed area around the front curve lens mold to be cleaned, an inlet for injecting compressed gas onto the front curve lens mold and an outlet for providing an outflow of gas from said enclosed area to remove any debris.
12. An apparatus for cleaning base curve contact lens molds comprising at least one base curve lens mold carrier, a conveying device for conveying said base curve lens mold carrier, and a cleaning station to receive said base curve lens mold carrier, wherein said cleaning station comprises at least one movable cleaning assembly which forms an enclosed or substantially enclosed area around the base curve lens mold to be cleaned, an inlet for injecting compressed gas onto the base curve lens mold to dislodge any debris located on the base curve lens mold, and an outlet for an outflow of gas from said enclosed area to remove debris.

13. A method for cleaning contact lens molds comprising the steps of placing a contact lens mold within an enclosed or substantially enclosed area, directing an inflow of gas under pressure into said enclosed area against said contact lens mold, and providing an outflow of gas from said enclosed area, thereby dislodging and removing debris.
14. The method according to claim 13 wherein the inflow and the outflow of gas are applied simultaneously.
15. The method according to claim 13 wherein the outflow of gas is applied before the inflow.
16. A cleaning apparatus for a lens mold, comprising a chamber which forms a confined area around said lens mold, an outlet for an outflow of gas from said chamber, an inlet for injecting an inflow of compressed gas, wherein said inlet and said outlet are connected to said chamber, and the inflow and outflow of gas clean said lens mold.
17. The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said lens mold is carried by a mold carrier, which holds a multitude of lens molds.
18. The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said chamber is formed by a cleaning assembly, wherein said lens

mold has a flange and said cleaning assembly has a ridge that conforms to the shape of said flange.

19. The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said compressed gas is filtered air.
20. The cleaning apparatus according to claim 16 wherein said outflow is provided by a vacuum source.